

December 27th, 2020

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church: 905-685-8294, Fax 905-685-7661, www.christlutheransc.ca

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoefs (289-362-0113) pastortoddoeoffs@gmail.com

Parish Assistant: Louise Gondosch (905-329-8579), parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca

Business Manager: Karen McCumber, business.manager@christlutheransc.ca

Secretary: Pat Kimpel, secretary@christlutheransc.ca

SOUL Ministry: Trinda Rensen, Gillian Leaver

Church Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC

Bulletin by email: Judy Mason, chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.

Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Prayer: Direct us, O Lord, in all our actions by Your gracious favor, and further us with Your continual help that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in Your name, we may glorify Your holy name and finally by Your mercy receive eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Both 9 AM and 11 AM Services

Musician: Mayumi Munoz

Readers: 9 a.m. – Lorraine Kaija

11 a.m. – Gloria Meyer

COVID 19 – PROTOCOL: Dear Brothers and Sisters of Christ Lutheran Church:

As the number of cases of Covid are beginning to rise in the Province, let us not be complacent; we cannot let our guard down. Kindly continue to follow the safety measures and protocols that are currently in place. If you have any of the symptoms outlined by Public Health, please remain at home. Sermons are available online. If attending worship please:

- Wear a mask (covering both your mouth and nose) at all times
- Sanitize your hands frequently.
- Practice social distancing – 2 metres or 6 feet apart.
- Ensure you have a temperature check before entering.
- Ensure that your attendance is noted at the entrance doors

Christmas Greetings!

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church.

We are glad you have chosen to worship with us this very holy day. We value your presence and treasure the fellowship we share in the glory of our new born king.

As your new pastor, with our first Christmas celebration together, worshipping in song and Scripture holds new excitement and familiar comfort in these trying times.

On behalf of all our leadership and those who serve us, my family and I wish you a joyous Christmas season and a new year filled with hope, health and peace.

Blessed Christmas to all,

Pastor Todd, Jennifer, Jonah, Nick and Georgia Hoefs

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas Carol Service

The 1st Sunday after Christmas
December 27, 2020 10 A.M. Blended

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OPENING HYMN: *"Joy To The World"*

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing, and Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.**

INVOCATION & CHRISTMAS SCRIPTURE SENTENCES

In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Word became Flesh, and we have seen His glory.

Oh, come, let us worship Him! Alleluia!

Today Christ is born! Today salvation has appeared!

**Today the righteous worship and say, "Glory to God in the
highest!" Alleluia!**

Come, all you peoples of the earth, and drink from the wells of the Saviour!

For He is our Maker! Alleluia!

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sins in the presence of Almighty God and one another:

(Silence for reflection)

Dear Heavenly Father:

We confess that we are sinful by our very nature, conceived and born in sin and death. We rebel against You in whatever we think, say, and do, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Even our righteous deeds are filthy rags. We have not let Your Word have its way with us. We have made other created things become gods in place of You, the Almighty God. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, that we may be hearers and doers of Your Word, live out Your holy Will, and walk in Your ways, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God be merciful to all of you and strengthen your faith.

Amen.

Do you believe that my forgiveness is God's forgiveness?

Yes.

Then let it be done for you as you believe. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

SUNG KYRIE

(Infant Holy tune)

**Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, on Your people now, we pray.
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, for Your favour, Christ we pray.
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, help Your people, Lord, we pray;
Give us grace, O Lord, we pray; In Your Light, show us the Way.**

CHRISTMAS HYMN OF PRAISE

"Hark the Herald Angels"

**Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the new-born King.
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies
With the-angelic host proclaim
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King!**

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray: Lord God, help us, in all our dealings with one another, to be subject to you, the Father of all. May we follow the way of Your Son, Jesus Christ, Who was faithful to your will, and gave up His life for us. We pray through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE SCRIPTURES

The Old Testament: *Numbers 6:22-27*

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying,
Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them,
The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.
So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.
This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle: *Galatians 3:23-29*

[St. Paul writes:] Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.
This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE

"The First Noel"

**The First No-el, the An-gels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel; Born is the King of Israel!**

The Holy Gospel: *St. Luke 2: 22-32*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.' Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the

Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Lord, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON SONG: *"How Many Kings?"*

NEW

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5UyiAnUE53U>

**Follow the star to a place unexpected
Would you believe, after all we've projected,
A child in a manger?
Lowly and small, the weakest of all
Unlikeliest hero, wrapped in his mother's shawl
Just a child
Is this who we've waited for?
'Cause how many kings step down from their thrones
How many lords have abandoned their homes?
How many greats have become the least for me?
And how many gods have poured out their hearts
To romance a world that is torn all apart**

**How many fathers gave up their sons for me?
Bringing our gifts for the newborn Savior
All that we have, whether costly or meek
Because we believe
Gold for his honor, and frankincense for his pleasure
And myrrh for the cross he will suffer
Do you believe?
Is this who we've waited for?
How many kings step down from their thrones?
How many lords have abandoned their homes?
How many greats have become the least for me?
And how many gods have poured out their hearts
To romance a world that is torn all apart**

**How many fathers gave up their sons for me?
Only wanted that for me
How many kings step down from their thrones?
How many lords have abandoned their homes?
How many greats have become the least?
How many gods have poured out their hearts
To romance a world that is torn all apart?
How many fathers gave up their sons for me?
Only wanted that for me, oh
All for me, all for you**

MESSAGE

THE CREEDAL SONG *Tune: "From Heav'n Above"*

**God's gift descends from Heav'n on High.
The Baby in the Manger lies.
Our Father has sent us His Son
That we with Him might now be one.**

**Christ Jesus is our Holy King!
To Him glad praises we shall sing!
Upon a cross deep sorrows bring;
He lives, so death has lost its sting!**

**The Spirit comes, the Church's seal!
Christ comes, in Water, Word and Meal!
With angels let us now proclaim
We do believe God's Saving Name!**

Words: Wheatridge Lutheran Ministries, © 1975 USA

THE PRAYERS

God's Son grew up knowing the joy and pain of a human family. Let us pray to our Father in heaven that he would enrich our families and every family on earth.

Lord God, heavenly Father, you have made us glad through the birth of your Son and the celebration of Christmas this year. We thank you that your holy church has been honoured to share in the praise of angels in these days. When people come into your church, wherever it may be, help them to see your Son Jesus: to receive his presence, to listen to and keep his teaching, to behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Lord in Your Christmas joy: **hear our prayer and bless us.**

As your Son grew in wisdom and grace before you and all people, help all the children and young people of the church to learn your word and call upon you in prayer. Protect them from the evil one, and help them make the faith they have received their own. Be with parents as they seek to pass on the faith in those they meet who need the Good News of salvation. Give them grace not to give up in this tiring task.

Lord in Your Christmas joy: **hear our prayer and bless us.**

We give you thanks for our land and the blessings we receive from it. Bless and guide our leaders: her gracious Majesty our Queen, our Prime Minister and the government, the Parliament and all who hold office. May they promote justice and goodness, both

for this generation and for the future. May all citizens have the will to serve their community, helping through their daily lives show how all spiritual hunger can find satisfaction in your newborn King. *Lord in Your Christmas joy:*

hear our prayer and bless us.

Have mercy on the nations of the world, and all places that suffer violence, natural disasters, and daily hardship. May good people and peacemakers prosper. May evil doers repent, before they perish.

Lord in Your Christmas joy:

hear our prayer and bless us.

Lord, you know our needs – we now commit to you those among us who are sick, dying or distressed. We especially lift up today...*[people named here...]*. Let the light of Christmas shine into their hearts, and may they accept your fatherly will with peace and joy. Comfort those who mourn the passing of loved ones.

Lord in Your Christmas joy:

hear our prayer and bless us.

God our Father, we give you thanks for all you have done for us. Hear our prayers, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SUNG LORD'S PRAYER *"O Come, Little Children" (German Carol melody)*

Our Father, in Heav-en, most holy Your name.

Your Kingdom among us, Your will just the same

Give us dai-ly bre-ad; and for-given we be;

Lead not to tempt-a-tion; From evil – make free.

For Yours is the king-dom, o'er all things You reign.

And Yours is the pow'r now; all things You main-tain.

To You be the glory, re-sounding again

from all of creation, forever! A-men.

BENEDICTION

Let us praise the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

The Lord bless and keep you; The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour and + give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"What Child Is This?" (Greensleeves)

**What Child is this who, laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are
keeping?**

**This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary.**

**Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The Babe, the Son of Mary.**

**So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise a song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, The Babe, the Son of Mary.**

WORSHIP NOTES

All liturgy, music and words are taken from the www.hymnary.org site as well as adaptations from the Lutheran Wheatridge ministries orders of service for Christmas, © 1975 USA. Biblical passages are from the New Revised Standard Version from Bible Gateway. All others are public domain.

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: 1 John 12: 1-10

Wed.: John 12: 35-43

Friday: Luke 12: 35-40

Tuesday: Rev. 12: 1-6

Thurs: John 12: 44-50

Saturday: Isa. 43: 1-7

New Year 2021: The Sundays in January 2021 during our provincial lockdown will be offered via live-stream on our Christ Lutheran Church Facebook page as 10 AM Blended Worship services. More details and communication will be forthcoming in the days and weeks ahead.

<u>Last Sunday Attendance:</u> Dec. 20th -- 9 a.m.- 53 11 a.m. – 33 Total: 86					
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ / (-)</u>
Current:	272,115.00	5,232.98	4,833.00	193,704.59	(78,410.41)
Missions	20,000.00	384.62	667.00	18,640.16	(1,197.84)
Property Improvement			195.00	5,448.16	

FLOWERS have been placed on the altar this morning to the glory of God by the Mason Family for a blessed 2021.

A MEMORIAL DONATION has been given to SOUL in memory of Steve Gall by Twila Gall.

2021 CHURCH ENVELOPES are ready in narthex. Please pick yours up today

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We thank the following people for donating poinsettias to beautify our church for our Christmas Services:

Gloria Meyer

Carole & Glenn Pink

Naomi Hohnberg

Louise & John Gondosch

Marge Stark

Paul & Judy Mason

Judy Slingerland

Steve Duga

M. Russell

Sue Honey

In Honour of:

In thanks for family

In thanks for our church leaders

In thanks for Church Leaders, Office Staff

and Pastor and family

In thanks for our Church Family

In thankfulness for Jesus

God's Healing Powers

God's Healing & Blessings

Bell Russell

With praise and thankfulness for everything

In Loving Memory of:

Mother-Doris Hohnberg

Mother-Joanne

Bell Russell

KAREEM & FAMILY REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP UPDATE:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, FROM YOUR REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE:

Awesome good news! We had a meeting on December 2nd to review the Sponsorship forms for Canadian Lutheran World Relief and by December 8th our government in Ottawa acknowledged the receipt of the application for our refugee family and was accepted in good order. A lot of work went into this by Jennifer Ardon and Muna Al-Nidawi at Canadian Lutheran World Relief. We had to have Arabic and Greek ID and other information translated to go with the applications sent by CLWR. The documents CLWR needed us to sign were completed and submitted for the process. Our committee met on December 2nd to review the forms and discuss how we would proceed to prepare for the family when they arrive. Ottawa will now be sending the applications overseas for final processing. We have no idea how long that will be especially in this covid time. However, as of Friday, December 4th CLWR had no spots available for refugee applicants, but by Monday, December 7th they had received notice from the Canadian government that they had 4 spots for applications open. Jennifer acted quickly and got our application in on Monday and by Tuesday Ottawa acknowledge the applications were in good form and would sent on to their overseas office for processing. **This my dear brothers and sisters in Christ is because of your many prayers offered to our Almighty and gracious God through our Saviour Jesus the Christ.** Please continue to press forward in prayer that the Lord would guide the hand of our government officials to bring Kareem and his wife Haimida, and little boys Ameer and Asser to safety here among us. As of November 23rd we had raised \$3,650 towards our goal. Remember not to neglect our other ministry needs and commitments as you or your friends donate to this outreach opportunity. I am confident the Lord will provide you with the resources to help support this mission outreach to Kareem and his family. God bless, Pastor John, 289-407-7662

The Lutheran Hour: Hear God's Word at the click of a button on Lutheran Hour webpage or on their super convenient app! *(Just hold your "Ctrl" button down and clickbox to follow the link)*

[LISTEN NOW >>](#)

[DOWNLOAD THE APP >>](#)

LHM—all info.—www.lhmcanada.org

LISTEN TO THE LUTHERAN HOUR: Tune in to **WDCX 99.5FM or 970AM.**

Sunday, January 3rd: "Too Much" Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler The Gospel according to St. Mark shows us the Savior Who is always on the move. (Mark 1:1 - 2:12) The Canadian sermons are available for listening on-line on LLL website (www.lll.ca/radio-tv-and-podcasts)

SUPPORTING YOUR CHURCH DURING THE PANDEMIC: 1. THROUGH EFT DONATIONS:

Some members are hesitant to return to in-person worship during these uncertain times, it's important for members to keep in mind that expenses for payroll, utilities, maintenance, etc. continue to accumulate. We have an awesome tool available to us in the form of EFT donations. Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation continues to facilitate this service for us. To assist you in continuing your financial support to your church, we encourage you to fill out the form that is available for printing on Christ's website, (PDF form under "Coming Events" tab -->"Bulletin Board" tab --> LCC-ED-EFT Authorization Form-Parishioner) or follow the link:

http://christlutheransc.ca/?page_id=96 and then mail the form along with a voided cheque to:

Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation,
275 Lawrence Ave.,
Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y3
Attn: Darryll Holland

2. BY MAIL: cheques can still be mailed to:

Christ Lutheran Church,
140 Russell Ave.
St.Catharines, ON L2R 1W1

or dropped in the Church mailbox at the East entrance.

3. ONLINE VIA LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA: Lutheran Church-Canada has opened a web portal that allows parishioners to donate directly to their home church. Just visit LCC's website: www.lutheranchurchcanada.ca and click on the "Support My Home Congregation with Online Donations", select "St. Catharines-Christ Lutheran-30950" from the drop down menu, enter the amount of your donations and LCC will transfer your donation to Christ. Donation is via VISA or Mastercard. Tax receipts will be issued by LCC (not Christ). This opportunity will be in effect until the COVID-19 emergency is over.